

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OPR-02 SY-07 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

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R 161305 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9741

INFO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03137

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, UG

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEW OF SECURITY SITUATION IN UGANDA

1. DURING BRITISH/ US DISCUSSIONS ON AFRICA MARCH 15 ASST SECTY NEWSOM OUTLINED MEASURES WE WERE TAKING TO REDUCE US PRESENCE IN UGANDA AND ASKED FOR BRITISH ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY SITUATION THERE. UK SPOKESMAN LE QUESNE SAID THAT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN KAMPALA DOES NOT THINK THAT THE SITUATION IS ANY WORSE NOW THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME MONTHS PAST AND THAT IT WILL PROBABLY REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME FOR SOME TIME TO COME. HIGH COMMISSION HAS ADVISED AGAINST TAKING OFFICIAL ACTION TO WIND DOWN BRITISH PRESENCE UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. BRITISH SYSTEM OF SENDING WARNING NOTICES WOULD START PROCESS WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REVERSE. FURTHERMORE WARNINGS ISSUED TO BRITISH PERSONNEL AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY WOULD LIKELY GET BACK QUICKLY TO GOU.

2. FOR THESE REASONS, BRITISH ARE SITTING TIGHT FOR THE PRESENT WITH THEIR PRESENCE HOVERING AROUND 2500. UNDER PRESENT POLICIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL ARE BEING WITHDRAWN ONLY AS THEIR CONTRACTS EXPIRE, WHICH MEANS THAT SOME WILL REMAIN UNTIL END 1974. A SPEED- UP IN THEIR DEPARTURE COULD BE EFFECTED IF HMG
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SO DESIRED BY CUTTING OFF THE PRESENT SUBSTANTIAL
GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR SALARIES. FCO
ACKNOWLEDGES THAT AN OUTRAGE COMMITTED AGAINST A BRITISH
CITIZEN OR AN UNEXPECTED INCREASE IN HOSTILITY OF AMIN
REGIME TOWARD BRITAIN COULD CAUSE HMG TO CHANGE POLICY
TO ONE OF RAPID REDUCTION OF BRITISH PRESENCE.

ANNENBERG.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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